

Arlington Conservation News

Fall 2017

Arlington Conservation Commission



The Arlington Reservoir is one of the Town's great natural resources. It is a 28 acre body of water totally surrounded by town-owned land. In addition to the swimming beach it is a wonderful place for walking, birding, fishing, or just enjoying nature. With Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding, we are looking at how the multiple uses of this area can be protected and enhanced without negatively affecting this treasured natural resource.

The Reservoir Master Plan process will define the projects and funding needed to allow us to preserve, restore, rehabilitate, and enhance the habitat, watershed, conservation, and recreational value of the area. The public is invited to meet with the design team at the Reservoir on Sept. 30th and further information is available at: <http://arlingtonreservoir.org>

Reservoir Master Plan



Invasive Water Chestnut harvesting at the Arlington Reservoir, organized by MyWRA

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Arlington Town Day
September 16th
- ◆ Reservoir Public Meeting
September 30th
10am-2pm
- ◆ Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project Public Meeting #2
Late Fall 2017

The Commission is managing the Spy Pond Shoreline Stabilization Project, funded by CPA funds. The project will preserve shoreline habitat and improve water quality while addressing erosion. Phase 2 of the project is currently underway at the following four portions of the public shoreline:

- Spy Pond Park
- Arlington Boys and Girls Club
- Scannell Field
- Spring Valley Street

Spy Pond Shoreline

This phase of the project involves botanical surveying, wetland delineations, soil sampling, and updating of the existing conditions plan. In the coming months this will result in shoreline stabilization improvements, new plantings, and educational signage. Resource delineation flags will be in place throughout the permitting process and should remain undisturbed. Questions?

Contact:

ConComm@arlington.town.ma.us

Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project

Over 4 years ago on May 31, 2013, a 10,000 gallon tanker filled with red-dyed diesel fuel overturned at the rotary at the intersection of Mystic Valley Parkway and Medford Street in Arlington, immediately adjacent to the Mystic River. All but about 400 gallons of fuel spilled from the tanker onto the roadway, where it flowed into catch basins and then directly into the Mystic River.

During cleanup and assessment activities, the Arlington Conservation Commission actively participated in site inspections with MassDEP, reviewed environmental reports, and approved the final cleanup.

The **Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project**, funded by a Natural Resource Defense (NRD) grant to the Town of Arlington, will break ground in October 2017. The project will create a native riverbank (riparian) habitat and improve storm water quality at a broken concrete outfall located along the



the end of Park Street in the area that was directly impacted by the spill (see photo above). The 1st Public Meeting was held in June 2017. A 2nd public meeting is planned for late fall 2017 to update on the construction progress and to obtain community participation for Spring 2018 planting efforts.

Goatscaping on Conservation Land



Conservation Land at Symmes Woods along Summer Street was treated to grooming of the underbrush by a small herd of goats.

This “green” approach avoids having to use poisonous chemicals (herbicides) to control invasive weeds, such as garlic mustard, in this conservation area.

The Goatscaping Company set up the goats in 2016 and 2017 using temporary fencing. The goats even eat the poison ivy!

Other Conservation Questions?

Please contact Lela Shepherd, Environmental Planner / Conservation Agent at lshepherd@town.arlington.ma.us or ConComm@town.arlington.ma.us

Or call the Conservation Office at 781-316-3012
Located in Town Hall, Arlington, MA